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CRITICS HIT LOGGING OPERATIONS

PRODUCTION BY NEW METHOD STARTS BADLY -- Sovetskaya Belorussiya, No 226,
15 Nov 49

On 1 September, the continuous logging method was introduced at the Deniskovichskiy Logging Center, Gantsevichskiy Timber Management, Minlesprom Trust. Even though the timber management had prepared for the conversion for about a month, many shortcomings appeared during the first days of September.

The area of forest chosen for cutting was too small since the distance between it and the yarding area was $1\frac{1}{2}$ kilometers. An electric power plant with five saws, potentially capable of felling 300 or more cubic meters of timber per shift, was set up in the cutting area; a similar electric power plant with saws was established in the yarding area. But only four skidding tractors were provided to move the timber from the cutting to the yarding area, and they were able to skid only 120 cubic meters per shift over that distance. Thus, both power plants were unable to operate at full capacity.

For 2 weeks, the yarding area was not electrically lighted. At night, bucking and loading of logs had to be done in the dark. When lights were finally installed, fuel and lubricant shortages developed. The director of the timber management has so far done nothing to assure an adequate amount of wood blocks for the wood-gas operated tractors.

For several weeks the power plant in the cutting area has been out of order. The timber management mechanic could repair it, but so far he has not shown up. In the meantime, felling is being done manually and utilization of the skidding tractors is below normal.

Normal operation of the continuous method requires spare parts for tractors and electric saws. But the technical supply office of Minlesprom Trust remains deaf to requests for spare parts.

Due to these factors, the production of Deniskovichskiy Logging Center is only one third of what it could be.

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SEN, MACHINES NOT USED EFFICIENTLY -- Leninskoye Znamya, No 223, 11 Nov 49

The Suma Timber Management was to have felled 14,000 cubic meters and transported 10,000 cubic meters of timber in October. However, it ended the month with unsatisfactory amounts.

Filatov, director of the timber management, blames the failure to fulfill the plan on an insufficient number of workers, machines, and transport animals. Actually, the timber management has hundreds of permanent workers, 184 draft horses, and enough machines. In addition, 78 kolkhoz workers with 19 horses are working in the forest.

The trouble is not a shortage of people but improper assignments. Only 53.3 percent of the workers are engaged in the primary work of felling and transporting. The rest either are doing emergency or preparatory work or are awaiting assignment to work. Only half of the available horses are used for timber transport work.

Machines are poorly utilized. Manual felling and horse transport are clearly preferred to mechanical operations. Only one of the four electric power plants, four of the 43 electric saws, and eight of the 15 logging trucks are in service. The rest are out of order and have not been repaired.

WORKING CONDITIONS POOR -- Sovetskaya Latvija, No 257, 30 Oct 49

Up to 1,200 kolkhoz workers of Ludza Uyezd are working in the timber cutting areas of Vilyakskiy Timber Management. They cut from 1,300 to 1,500 cubic meters of timber daily. Production could be greater, however, if the directorate of the timber management had made adequate preparations for the logging season. Living quarters have not been provided for the kolkhoz workers, who must live in quarters 6-8 kilometers from their work.

This year the bark was to be stripped from the logs, but the timber management did not provide the tools required for this work.

The directorate is not concerned about the needs of the kolkhoz workers. There is no light in the workers' quarters because the mobile electric power plant is out of order.

These deficiencies are known to the supervisory Latsevlis Trust, but nothing is done about them.

LACK OF SPARE PARTS STOPS MACHINES -- Leninskoye Znamya, No 224, 13 Nov 49

In the Malen'gskiy Timber Management, there are serious deficiencies in labor organization and utilization of machines.

In October, for instance, only 30 of the 51 VAKOPP electric saws, only 13 of the 30 high-frequency K-5 electric saws, eight of the 14 tractors, two of the four wood-gas locomotives, and three of the eight skidding winches were in service.

A lack of spare parts is one of the principal factors keeping machines idle. The Sevkarelles Trust has not provided a single tractor spare part this year. Locomotives are unserviceable because of a lack of bronze bushings and pressure gauges. Pressure gauges were ordered from the trust as far back as April but have not yet been received.

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At one cutting area of the Interposelok Logging Point, it takes from one to several hours every morning to start the PES-15 gas-generator mobile electric power plant. Until the power plant is running, the electric saws of the fallers remain idle and all other logging operations are also at a standstill. The saw operators consider it a good day when they have power for their saws for 2 or 3 hours.

This inefficiency does not bother Alekseyev, chief of the logging point, and Savin, supervisor of technical work. They blame the failure to fulfill the plan on bad weather, unfavorable terrain, and the sparseness of tree growth. They do almost nothing to improve working organization.

For example, a request to build a shed for housing and repairing the power plant has been lying on Alekseyev's desk for a long time. It would be easy to build such a shed, easier still to have the mechanic go to start the power plant an hour before the saw operators go to the forest. But the matter does not advance beyond the talking stage.

The loggers work on swampy ground. The logging point has a new three-drum skidding winch. Under the swampy conditions, use of the winch would considerably lighten skidding work. But at the beginning of October, the winch broke down. While repairs were being made, the logs lying around the winch were skidded with horses. Now, the winch has long since been repaired, but no one thinks of moving it to another felling area.

Although two truck cranes are available, loading of logs onto trucks is frequently done by hand because the cranes are broken down or because of a lack of fuel or lubricant. Stumps are grubbed from the logging road by hand, even though a powerful and fully serviceable tractor stands nearby.

The directorate of the Pryazha Timber Management takes a strange attitude towards the Interposelok Logging Point. On the desk of Bezzubikov, until a few days ago chief engineer of the timber management (replaced by Yemel'yanov), lies an outline of the technological methods to be followed by all logging centers of the timber management. It appears from this document that the Interposelok Logging Point is to be converted to the continuous method of operations. But the logging point has so far not been given the plan, and it is difficult to say when the continuous method will be put into operation.

FEW SEASONAL WORKERS RESPOND -- Sovetskaya Belorussiya, No 226, 15 Nov 49

To fulfill the fall and winter logging season plan successfully, it is necessary to organize a mass movement of seasonal workers into the forest, to utilize available equipment properly and fully, and to follow advanced work methods.

However, while thousands of seasonal workers should be busy in the forests by this time, the number as of 10 November was as follows: in Mogilev Oblast, 15 kolkhoz wagon drivers using their wagons for transporting timber; in Bobruysk Oblast, 153 drivers; in Molodechno Oblast, 37 fallers; and in Vitebsk Oblast, 69 drivers.

The facts indicate that supervisors of logging organizations have repeated last year's mistakes in not making adequate preparations for the logging season.

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PARTIAL MECHANIZATION CREATES BOTTLENECKS -- Izvestiya, No 270, 16 Nov 49

In the Siberian forests, thousands of new machines are in operation. The logging centers of the large Zavodoukovskiy Timber Management of Tyumen'les Trust have been partially mechanized. The Verkhnyaya Kamenka and Yurga-Lesnaya logging points of the timber management have been organized to operate on the continuous method. Electric cables lead from the power plants to the cutting areas and to the skidding winches.

At the former point, there are 14 special S-80 skidding tractors, but more than half of them are waiting for repair and those in operation frequently break down from various causes. There is no tractor repair shop at the point. Loading is done manually and with horsepower, since mechanical loading equipment has not yet been received.

At all logging points of the timber management, felling outstrips skidding and loading, and logs accumulate in great numbers. The lag in moving the timber results in regular nonfulfillment of the plan.

The logging points experience great difficulties in regard to supplies and spare parts for tractors, trucks, and winches. New winches are delivered unequipped with metal cables and cannot be used.

The timber management directorate complains of a shortage of workers. However, many workers on hand are utilized unproductively. Each of the four winches at one point has four assistant operators, or 16 men who could be assigned to other mechanisms.

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